

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Pending claims 1-32 have been examined and are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018 to Erikson (hereinafter “Erikson”); claims 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0029531 to Ohta (hereinafter “Ohta”); claims 6-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta; claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta, and further including U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0184496 to Mitchell et al. (hereinafter “Mitchell”); and claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Erikson.

By way of overview, Applicant cancels claims 9, 13 and 24; traverses the rejection of claims 1-5; and overcomes the rejections of claims 6-8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-32 as follows.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A. Claims 1-5

As noted above, claims 1-5 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Erikson.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for extending one or more capabilities of a handheld device. The method of claim 1 includes a unique combination of operations, such as, the

handheld device detecting a helper device that provides at least one resource. The selected resource extends the capabilities of the handheld device and is not adequately provided by the independent operation of the handheld device.

For example and not by way of limitation, consider a user of a handheld device that attempts to view some data that the handheld device cannot display or can display in only a primitive manner due to a small screen size, a low graphical resolution, etc. (*See, e.g.*, Applicant's specification: page 4, lines 12-16). In the context of claim 1, the handheld device would locate a helper device, such a computer monitor having a large screen size and a high resolution, for displaying the data transferred from the handheld device (*Id.*).

Conversely, Erikson relates to using a handheld device to control one or more remote devices over a wireless connection (Erikson: Abstract). Thus, Erikson merely describes using a handheld device as a remote control device for controlling one or more compliant devices (Erikson: col. 2, lines 58-62). For example, in Erikson, a PDA 100 can be used to turn a remote device on or off (Erikson: col. 9, lines 31-40).

Erikson fails to disclose or suggest a helper device that provides any resources for the benefit of the handheld device, such that a resource of the helper device extends the capabilities of the handheld device. Indeed, Erikson fails to disclose or suggest that a resource of a helper device is used to process data transferred from the handheld device, let alone that the data is transferred only upon the helper device granting the handheld device access to the resource.

To the contrary, in Erekson, a command based on user input provided to the handheld device (*e.g.*, PDA 100) is sent to a selected remote device (Erekson: col. 8, lines 56-64). The command is merely for controlling the remote device in some prescribed manner (*e.g.*, turning the device on or off, raising or lowering a level, etc.) based on the type of device and its capabilities (*Id.*).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Erekson fails to anticipate the method of claim 1 for extending one or more capabilities of a handheld device. Indeed, in Erekson, the capabilities of the handheld device with respect to the remote devices to be controlled are predefined.

Consequently, claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Erekson at least by virtue of their dependency, as well as the additional features recited therein.

For example, in claim 3, the operation of the selected resource on the data (transferred from the handheld device to the helper device) is controlled by said handheld device. In Erekson, once the PDA 100 sends a command to the remote device, the PDA 100 does not control how the remote device processes the command.

In claim 4, the handheld device constructs and displays a control interface based on an interface description sent from a helper device. The response messages described in Erekson do not correspond to the recited interface description. Instead, the response messages may include information on the characteristics and capabilities of the remote devices to be controlled (Erekson: col. 8, lines 42-55).

Furthermore, for claim 4, new resources can be added or existing resources can be modified without requiring modifications on the handheld device. Conversely, Erikson requires that the PDA 100 be updated as needed, such as when a new device type is to be controlled (Erikson: col. 11, lines 41-49).

In claim 5, the helper device sends a status report of the operation of the selected resource on the data (transferred from the handheld device to the helper device) to the handheld device, such that the handheld device takes action based on the status report. Conversely, in Erikson, the remote devices being controlled by the handheld device 100 do not operate on data transferred from the handheld device 100. Instead, the remote devices merely react to commands provided by the handheld device 100 (Erikson: col. 8, lines 56-64). Erikson does not disclose or suggest that any status reports are provided to the handheld device by the remote devices based on these commands, let alone that the handheld device takes action based on such a status report.

B. Claims 22-31

As noted above, claims 22-31 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohta.

Claim 22 is directed to a system for extending one or more capabilities of a handheld device. Applicant amends claim 22 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 24 therein. Thus, claim 24 is canceled to avoid redundancy and claims 25-26 are amended to correct their dependency.

In claim 22, the second means (*e.g.*, a helper device) uses the third means (*e.g.*, a wireless connection) to send an interface description to said first means (*e.g.*, a handheld device). Then, the first means constructs and displays a control interface from the received interface description, such that the first means uses the third means to transfer a user interaction with the constructed and displayed control interface to the second means.

The Examiner alleges that Ohta discloses these features of claim 22 (Office Action: page 8; *citing* Ohta: paragraph 37). To the contrary, Ohta merely describes a print notice signal (*e.g.*, implemented as an e-mail) to the user of a handheld device 11, such that the handheld device 11 notifies the user that a copy of a document is to be printed for him/her in the near future (Ohta: paragraph 37). This print notification does not correspond to transferring an interface description from a second means to a first means so that the first means can construct and display a control interface based thereon.

Thus, claim 22 is not anticipated by Ohta. Consequently, claims 23 and 25-31 are not anticipated by Ohta at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 6-15 and 17-20

As noted above, claims 6-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/986,698
Attorney Docket No. A8182

Claim 6 is directed to a method for extending one or more capabilities of a handheld device. Applicant amends claim 6 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 9 therein. Similarly, Applicant amends claim 11 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13 therein. Thus, claims 9 and 13 are canceled to avoid redundancy and claim 14 is amended to correct its dependency.

Claim 6 includes a unique combination of features, such as, one of the helper devices sending an interface description to the handheld device, wherein the handheld device constructs and displays a control interface from said interface description.

The Examiner alleges that Ereksen discloses these features of claim 6 by describing the transmission of characterization information by a remote device to a handheld device. To the contrary, in Ereksen, a remote device may send a response to a broadcast message originally sent by the handheld device (Ereksen: col. 8, lines 42-55). The response includes information characterizing the type and capabilities of the remote device (*Id.*). The transmission of information that may be used to characterize one or more remote devices does not correspond to an interface description that is used by a handheld device to construct and display a control interface.

Ohta fails to make up for these exemplary deficiencies of Ereksen. Thus, claim 6 is patentable over the proposed combination of Ereksen in view of Ohta. Claim 11 recites features similar to claim 6 and, thus, is patentable over Ereksen in view of Ohta based on a rationale

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/986,698
Attorney Docket No. A8182

analogous to that set forth above for claim 6. Consequently, claims 7-8, 10, 12, 14-15 and 17-20 are patentable over Erikson in view of Ohta at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. Claim 16

As noted above, claim 16 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta, and further including Mitchell.

Mitchell fails to make up for the exemplary deficiencies of Erikson in view of Ohta set forth above for claim 11. Consequently, claim 16 is patentable over the proposed combination of Erikson in view of Ohta, and further in view of Mitchell, at least by virtue of its dependency.

C. Claim 32

As noted above, claim 32 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Erikson.

Erikson fails to make up for the exemplary deficiencies of Ohta set forth above for claim 22. Consequently, claim 32 is patentable over the proposed combination of Ohta in view of Erikson at least by virtue of its dependency.

IV. Conclusion

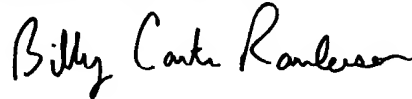
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/986,698
Attorney Docket No. A8182

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Billy Carter Raulerson
Registration No. 52,156

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 28, 2004